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NEWS

Winchester town manager Beth Rudolph tenders resignation

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

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Town Manager Beth Rudolph on July 7 tendered her resignation to the Select Board. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY

Town Manager Beth Rudolph submitted her resignation on Mon setting a cap on a career that began in the Town Hall engineering

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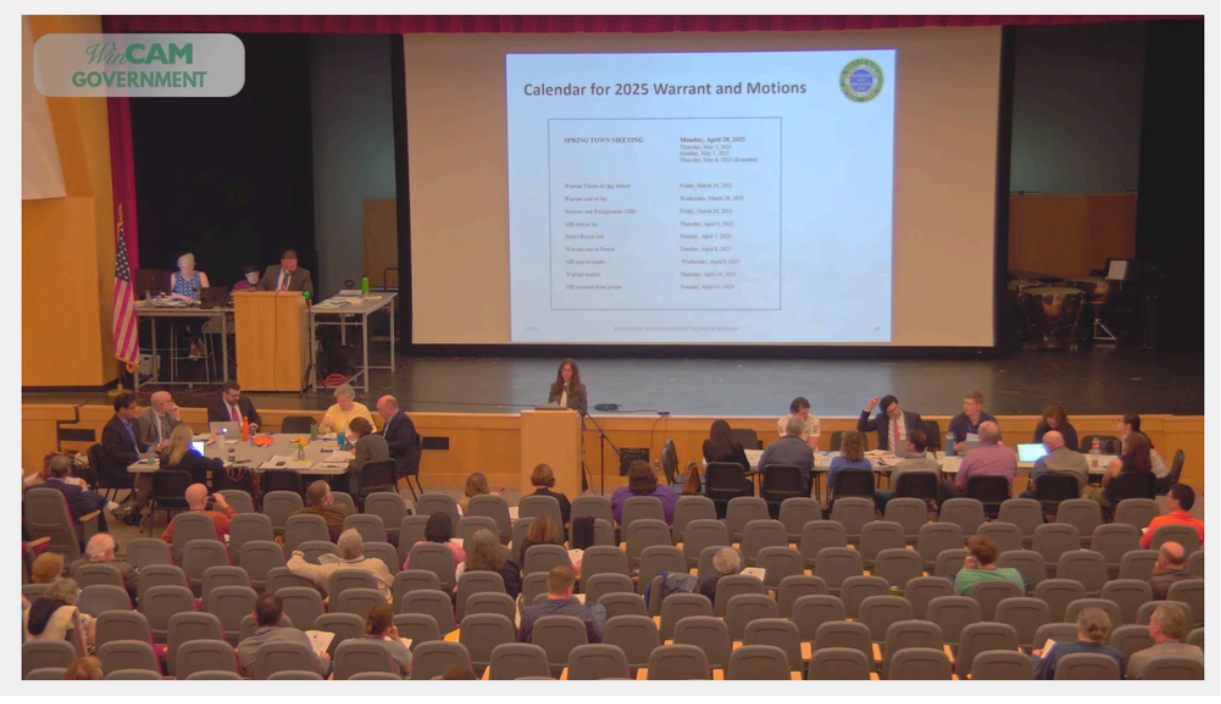
and culminated in the top administrative post.

Select Board member Bill McGonigle said Rudolph's brief letter offered no explanation beyond her intention to leave. He did not have a timeline for her departure.

"It doesn't say anything other than I've had a good experience, and I'm resigning," he said.

Rudolph entered municipal service around 2004, joining Winchester as assistant town engineer under Bob Conway. She later rose to town engineer, a role in which she oversaw infrastructure projects ranging from storm-water upgrades to road resurfacing and helped shepherd multimillion-dollar capital plans.



Town Manager Beth Rudolph, at center podium, speaks to Town Meeting during the spring session. WINCHESTER NEWS/WINCAM PHOTO/NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY

Her profile expanded in 2021 when former Town Manager Lisa Wong left to become the South Hadley town manager, and the Select Board tapped Rudolph to serve as acting town manager during a pandemic-bu budget cycle.

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“She came into the town manager position, you know, as acting town manager at a very odd time,” McGonigle said, adding it was around COVID-19.

In December 2022, the board voted unanimously to remove the interim tag and name Rudolph permanent town manager.

March 2025 brought her first formal performance review, in which board members praised her budgeting discipline, collaborative leadership and “impeccable organization.” The evaluation placed her in the top tier of the town’s compensation scale.

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“She’s been working for the town for 27 years,” McGonigle said, noting Rudolph’s public-works experience helped her navigate supply-chain squeezes, storm-water mandates and a volatile construction market.

Town Hall staff learned of her decision when Rudolph submitted her resignation on July 7. The effective date has not been finalized, but McGonigle said department heads are already drafting transition plans.

“She’s just, she’s been town manager through a couple of very, not easy years, but I think she’s done a good job,” he said. “I’ve personally enjoyed working with her. I’m disappointed that I won’t get to work with her more. I hope that she has found something that’s better for her personally.”

The board intends to place a discussion of the succession process on upcoming agendas. Interim leadership, recruitment timelines and the potential use of a search firm are expected to be part of the public deliberations.

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Town Manager Beth Rudolph at the 2025 Citizen of the Year banquet with Lance Grenzeback. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/TARA HUGHES

In Winchester, the Select Board appoints the town manager, who oversees day-to-day operations, negotiates labor contracts and proposes t budget.

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Until a successor is chosen, McGonigle said the board's priority will be maintaining continuity.

On Wednesday afternoon, Rudolph said she was not available for comment on her resignation and departure.

Select Board Chair Michelle Prior and other members of the board were unavailable for comment.

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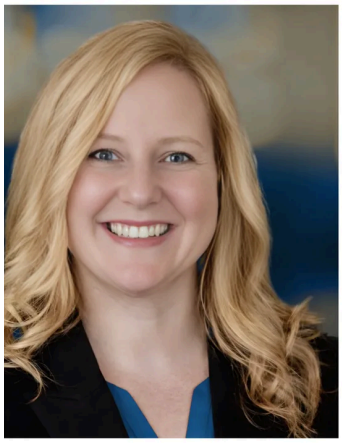

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'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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